

the Director of Nursing at the Oakwood Infirmary. Her philosophy was to treat each woman with respect and dignity. Since her retirement in 1990, she remains dedicated to Oakwood by volunteering her time to the nuns through the Oakwood Auxiliary and the Children of Mary. She and her husband Paul celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a Mass at the Oakwood Chapel in September 2007.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mrs. Mary Ann Robbiano as she is given the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through her countless contributions to her family and friends, and most especially the Sacred Heart community, she has more than earned this Award. Her hard work and commitment to excellence are a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools and live on in the life of every student who has come through its distinguished halls. Her deep faith and the practice of it have inspired everyone who knows her. Our community and our country have been bettered because of Mary Ann Robbiano and I consider it a privilege to know her and honor her.

TRIBUTE TO 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th anniversary of the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ in Miami, Florida. Since its inception, the church has stood in the community as a symbol of perseverance and inspiration. This historic anniversary of the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ marks a time of remembrance of a storied past and renewal for a bright future.

In April 1958, Marie Faulkner Brown, daughter of Congregational minister Rev. Dr. William F. Faulkner, sought to fulfill a specific need of her Congregational background through spiritual guidance. She called together a group of 10 people with a Congregational denominational background similar to hers to discuss the possibility of forming an interracial Congregational church in Miami.

The small group continued to meet regularly and chose the name, Congregational Christian Fellowship. The superintendent of the Florida Conference, Rev. Dr. Robbins Ralph was impressed with the honesty and eloquence of this beginning group and appointed Dr. Wiley Scott, pastor of Miami Beach Community Church, to chair a steering committee that provided leadership for the group from local Congregational ministers. Superintendent Ralph and Dr. Scott were instrumental in sharing their favorable impression of this beginning church with the national church. The national church was generous with funds to buy a parsonage on Northwest 9th Avenue, and subsidized the group for 5 years. It also gave financial support to purchase the property where the church is now located, the current edifice and the family life center. The group began meeting in the Florida room of Dr. Kelsey L. Pharr and later moved to Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Union Academy for Sunday morning worship services.

The name Church of the Open Door, Congregational, was voted on September 20, 1959. The church was incorporated on September 28, 1959, with 75 charter members. The first interim pastor, a Congregational minister, was Rev. Dr. Charles Wicks. Rev. Dr. Henry Curtis McDowell, a missionary to Angola, West Africa, for 40 years, served as the founding pastor. The current pastor, who previously served as pastor of Amistad United Church of Christ in Maryland, is Rev. Dr. R. Joaquin Willis.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding and honoring the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ as it celebrates 50 years of dedicated fellowship. Throughout the past 50 years, the clergy and members have dedicated themselves to providing spirituality, service, and guidance to the church and greater community of Miami, Florida. It is my hope the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ continues to stand as a beacon of resolve, inspiration, and worship for many years to come.

HONORING MONTE PISTORESI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Monte Pistoiresi and to congratulate him upon being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Pistoiresi will be honored at a reception on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Monte Pistoiresi attended school in Chowchilla, California, and graduated from the University of Santa Clara in 1960 with a business administration degree. Upon graduating, he entered into the United States Army. In 1963, he began to work for his family's Chevrolet dealership in Chowchilla. The dealership had one ambulance that was used to provide services to the Chowchilla area. Mr. Pistoiresi helped to drive the ambulance on emergency calls. In 1981, the dealership closed, but he was the successful bidder for the city of Madera ambulance contract. By 1982, the company had 3 ambulances and 10 employees. Today, Pistoiresi Ambulance has been serving Madera for 26 years and has 8 ambulances and 45 employees.

Mr. Pistoiresi is always giving back to the community, everything from umpiring Little League baseball games to his involvement in the Madera Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Madera Community Hospital Foundation from 1990 to 1998, and on the board of trustees for the hospital from 1998 to 2008. Mr. Pistoiresi is a member of the Madera Kiwanis Club, Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Madera Elks, Madera NAACP, Madera County Emergency Medical Care Community, Women's Prison Citizen Advisory Board, and the city of Madera Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Pistoiresi also donates time and money to Children's Hospital Central California. Due to his involvement in the community, he has received many awards and recognitions including the Madera Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the

Year, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Chowchilla Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, Madera Elks and Kiwanis Distinguished Citizenship Award, and the Martin Luther King Committee Humanitarian Award.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Monte Pistoiresi upon being awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Pistoiresi many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT A. HAND'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to Bob Hand for his 25 years of untiring service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. Bob joined the Commission's professional staff on August 1, 1983, though his human rights advocacy work began years earlier and included a stint as an intern with the Commission. A man of deep principles and convictions, Bob has approached each challenge with determination and diligence.

Driven by a quiet passion for upholding the human rights commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, Bob helped compile lists of individuals denied their fundamental freedoms by regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. His work in promoting free market principles and protection of the environment included efforts specifically aimed at encouraging individual entrepreneurs and strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations. A case in point was his active role in defending environmental activists during the 1989 Sofia Meeting on the Protection of the Environment, an event that paved the way for the ouster of the Bulgarian dictatorship. Bob played a leading role in preparations for the 1990 Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation in Europe, an historic East-West meeting that embraced key principles, such as rights to private property and the importance of the rule of law in the economic sphere, among others.

For more than two decades, Bob has served as the Commission's point person for the Balkans region. He was an early advocate of raising human rights concerns with Belgrade when Yugoslavia was still included among the ranks of the Neutral and Non-Aligned countries. A keen analyst of developments in the Balkans, Bob began drawing attention to potential flash points like Kosovo long before others. He volunteered to be deployed as an expert on the Mission to Kosovo, Sanjak, and Vojvodina fielded by the then Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the early 1990s. With his able assistance, the Helsinki Commission remained at the forefront of efforts to uphold Bosnia's right to self defense in the face of armed aggression and genocide. He has persistently worked to document the human toll suffered by victims, among them those who perished during the massacre at Srebrenica, and to press for

apprehension of indicted war criminals like Ratko Mladić, who remain at large. Elsewhere in the region, Bob has worked particularly hard to promote democracy, human rights and rule of law in Albania, a country he first visited in 1990. Beyond his responsibilities monitoring developments in the Balkans region, Bob ably serves as secretary for the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am pleased to recognize and commend Bob Hand for his faithful, dedicated, and tireless service to me and my colleagues.

HONORING ANGELO DESORBO ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, and the West Haven community in wishing a very special happy birthday to Angelo DeSorbo who is celebrating his 100th birthday.

Angelo DeSorbo might best be known as the gentleman selling plants and flowers at "Kimberly Open-Air Market on the corner of Ella Grasso Boulevard and Kimberly Avenue in New Haven—a vocation he has enjoyed for more than 65 years. Kind-hearted and generous with a smile, Mr. DeSorbo is well-known throughout the community and has become a good friend to many of his customers. Even today, though he sometimes has difficulty walking, he is driven to his stand every morning, weather permitting. He may be celebrating his centennial anniversary, but Angelo DeSorbo is still young at heart and spry of spirit. In the decades that he has been at the "Kimberly Open-Air Market," Mr. DeSorbo has become a New Haven institution—a community treasure.

Marking decades of hard work, this occasion reflects an important milestone in Mr. DeSorbo's life. Over the years, he has witnessed remarkable changes and extraordinary progress. Living standards have blossomed for most Americans as technology has altered some of our most basic expectations. Indeed he can take pride in having participated in some of the most exciting times in our history, and can look forward to the progress of the new millennium.

I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Angelo DeSorbo and to join his daughter, Adelaide; her husband, Michael; his two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, in wishing him a very happy 100th birthday. Mr. DeSorbo has left an indelible mark on our community and I wish him many more years of health and happiness. Happy birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF 30 YEARS OF
SERVICE BY THE SACRAMENTO
CHINESE COMMUNITY SERVICE
CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center for 30 years of service to immigrants, refugees, and disadvantaged groups in the Sacramento area.

The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center was founded in 1978 to aid newly arrived Chinese immigrants in dealing with the myriad challenges of immigration and cultural adaptation. Over the last few years, its programs have expanded to help other non-Chinese immigrants, refugees, and other disadvantaged groups that call Sacramento home including those of Hmong, Mien, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, and Russian descent.

The SCCSC assists more than 4,000 clients each year, including 2,400 children in their after school programs. It offers 26 programs, including youth mentoring and counseling, employment assistance, translation, transportation and home health visits for senior citizens, parenting workshops, job skill workshops and paid work experience, and citizenship classes.

The SCCSC has received recognition for its successes, including having received the Gloria Rose Memorial Grant Award from the United Way California Capitol Region for being an agency which achieves outstanding results, and works towards building a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate community. The SCCSC has also received the Spirit of Mentoring Award from the California Mentor Foundation for providing an exemplary community-based mentor program.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center upon the occasion of its 30th anniversary, and express my gratitude to the center for providing essential services and support to new immigrants, citizens, refugees, at-risk youth, senior citizens, and others in need. The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center has provided the community with a wide array of opportunities, and I wish its leaders the best of luck as they continue in their service.

HONORING ARMY STAFF
SERGEANT ALEX JIMENEZ

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor, salute, and pay tribute to one of our brave fallen soldiers.

Army Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez went to Iraq for the first time in 2005. Already fluent in Spanish, he quickly taught himself Arabic and became a translator for fellow soldiers who needed to communicate with the Iraqi people they had been sent there to protect. Army officials always praised his leadership and strength.

Alex took pride in the Army and his responsibilities as a soldier. He once told his cousin, "Honestly, I signed the contract, and it doesn't matter what my opinion is. I just think about the guy to my left and the guy to my right making it home. That's all I care about." He recognized the importance of his duties, writing, "I believe that in the United States Army, I may reach my goals which are—making positive differences, bringing peace to the innocent, and making justice my duty as a U.S. soldier."

Without a doubt, Alex achieved all of these goals.

Without a doubt, Alex made his family, his army, and his hometown community of Corona, Queens very proud.

And, without a doubt, Alex's services to our country was honorable and distinguished.

Sadly, however, on May 12, 2007, Alex Jimenez, along with six of his fellow soldiers, was patrolling a deserted highway south of Baghdad, looking for insurgents planting roadside bombs, when he and the group came under fire. Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez, who was on his second tour in Iraq, Specialist Byron Fouty, and Private First Class Joseph J. Anzack Jr. were taken prisoner.

The four soldiers who died in the attack were Sergeant Anthony J. Schober, Private First Class Daniel W. Courneya, Private Christopher E. Murphy, and Sergeant First Class James D. Connell, all of Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. Private First Class Joseph J. Anzack Jr.'s body was recovered on May 23, 2007.

The Queens community mourned for the loss of Alex's fellow soldiers and, together, we prayed for the safe return of Alex and Byron. Despite our wishing and hoping for the best, the bodies of Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez and Specialist Byron W. Fouty were found on July 8, 2008.

So many worked tirelessly to bring Alex home, and the Queens community and Alex's family are so appreciative and grateful for their efforts. Because now, we have the opportunity to say goodbye to Alex one more time and to lay his body to rest.

As a parent, I know that this loss will stay with Sergeant Jimenez's family forever. But, I hope that in some small way, Alex Jimenez's parents have some relief now that they finally have the opportunity to lay their son to rest. Those closest to him will always remember his love for music and his family, and his loyalty as a soldier and friend. I extend my deepest and most sincere sympathies to the family of Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez, and thank them for their sacrifice for our country.

I would like to close my remarks by reading a few pieces of the U.S. Army Soldier's Creed, which exemplifies the type of person Staff Sergeant Jimenez was; a man who loved his family and his country.

I am a Warrior, and a member of a team.
I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.
I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.
I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.
I am an American Soldier.